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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 5

VOL. 5

6/- PER ANNUM.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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EDITORIAL.

The Annual Conference is now definitely fixed to be held in the Chamber of Commerce, Auckland, on June 8th, 9th and 10th, and the indications are that more support must be forthcoming if it is to be up to the usual standard. A circular letter appealing for papers has been sent round to a large number of men, and the response so far has been only fair. The appeal is to you all that have a matter of interest to bring forward, be it on organisation, manipulation, or a line of thought

that opens up possibilities for future development.

We want it clearly understood that the success or failure of a conference rests entirely upon the individual. The Secretary and Executive of the National do not and could not run a conference 'on their own'; it can only be run with the co-operation of every member of the Association. We particularly look to the Auckland members to supply the bulk of the programme. Many of the Northern members have never attended the Conferences held in Wellington and Christchurch, and consequently we have not had the benefit of their experiences. The programme must be made up

for the next issue of the Journal, and we earnestly appeal for papers, the titles of which should be in the hands of the secretary not later than the 20th inst.

The order of Conference will be largely on the same lines as last year—the morning sessions occupied with matters connected with the policy of the National, reports from Branches, &c.; the afternoons to be occupied with papers of general interest. The evening of the first day will be an informal meeting, when a free-and-easy discussion is allowed on any matter; appliances demonstrated, &c., &c. The evening of the second day will be taken up by a supper and social evening; the afternoon of the third day to be spent at the depot of the H.P.A., when the plant and methods of handling the honey for both local and export markets will be shown.

The titles of the papers promised so far are "Ventilation"; "The National Association"; "Out-Apiary Management"; "Economy in Production"; "The Uses of Concrete in the Apiary"; "Why I Like Large Hives"; "The Value of a Smile in Commerce"; "The Future of the Honey Industry"; "How Not to do It," by one who did.

We think we can count on one more, perhaps two; also the holder of New Zealand beekeeping (Mr. I. Hopkins) has promised to assist in this direction.

The recent circular received by the shareholders of the H.P.A. bearing upon the advances to be paid out this season is the most serious matter that has confronted those engaged in the industry. In saying this, we are not referring to the reduced amount to be advanced, but rather what it indicates. This, when read with the market report furnished by Messrs. Taylor & Co., Liverpool, dated 2nd February, where Chilean honey is being offered at 38/6 c.i.f. without business resulting, must lead to serious thought by those who depend on beekeeping for a living. On the 23rd January last year, the report from the same quarter read thus:—"We cannot do better than repeat our last quotations for Chilean, from 69/- to 97/6 per cwt." Therefore, the highest quotation this year is exactly one-half the lowest quotation last year, and yet no business done!

The above information indicates that the honey market in England has dropped to pre-war rates, and the pre-war rate netted the exporters between 2d. and 2½d. per lb., as the following quotations received by the Editor will prove:—Messrs. Dalton and Young, Finchchurch street, London, 7/4/11, 30/- to 40/- per cwt.; same firm, 3/8/11, about 42/6 per cwt.; Taylor and Co., 9/8/11, about 40/- per cwt.; C. and E. Morton, London, 2/8/11, 37/- to 40/-.

How about the New Zealand market? The following is an extract from an Auckland firm dated February 29th, 1912:—"We are prepared to take a trial shipment

of honey from you at the prices mentioned—namely, 40 cases 2lb. tins at 9/6 per doz.; 20 cases of 2lb. glass jars at 11/6 per doz.; and five cases of 1lb. glass jars at 6/6 per doz., f.o.r. Auckland, less 2½ per cent, first pay day after delivery.

From Wellington, dated December 21st, 1912:—"For your information, — is quoting 4d. for bulk, 9/6 2lb. tins, 12/- for 2lb. glass, and 6/9 1lb. glass, f.o.r. loading station."

From Auckland, dated February 24th, 1912:—"We are prepared to take 40 cases 2lb. tins 9/- per doz.; 20 cases 2lb. glass at 11/6, less 2½ per cent., f.o.r. Auckland."

These are extracts from letters still in our possession, and they indicate how far we have travelled since then. The question now is:—Are we going back to these conditions? There is no other answer than "Yes" emphatically, unless beekeepers realise their danger; and we regret to learn that some are foolishly ignoring this, the result of the lessened advance being made by the H.P.A. having had the effect of a large quantity of honey being offered in the open market. There is only one end to this, and that is the weakening of the N.Z. market, which is at present the best on earth. All producers in New Zealand have striven to maintain the parity of prices ruling in England with here. Our Association has continued to raise the local market to a payable price to the beekeeper, and one that will not act adversely on the purchasing public until it is considerably above the export parity, and the splendid results that have been obtained by this policy meant the payment of 7½d. per lb. for the first grade honey last year, and that put up in 60lb. tins, with no labour entailed in filling small containers, and no bother as to where to find a market.

Now, then, if the export market has fallen to pieces, and our honey crop yields a considerable quantity over what the New Zealand market can absorb, what is to be done with it, and what is it worth? It is worth exactly the amount that the merchants can turn it over to the storekeepers at a price that will under-sell the price fixed by our Association for "Imperial Bee" honey, the inevitable result being that the best payable market in the world has been ruined by the foolishness and want of foresight by certain beekeepers. We cannot understand the attitude taken up by those who do not support the co-operative system of marketing; for look! what is the position of the N.Z. beekeeper to-day? One of absolute invulnerability. The recent embargo placed on honey being imported without a certificate from the Government of the country exporting that the honey has been raised in a district that has no sign of disease practically prevents the importation of honey from outside. This means that the New Zealand beekeepers can keep the price of the local market at a steady rate, providing only they put their honey through one channel

that can regulate the supply to the demand. Prior to the existence of the H.P.A., no honey was imported, and yet the prices ruling were not to be compared with those of to-day, and we state without fear of contradiction that the price of honey on the local market to-day has been made possible by one fact only—the existence of our co-operative system of marketing. During the whole of the war period we raised far more than the local market could absorb, at one time having 350 tons in store; so the improved price was not brought about by the scarcity of the crops: neither was it brought about by the export demand because, although it was there, it could not be exported, as there was no shipping space available. Therefore, the position does not admit any other explanation than that it was only by the Association regulating the supply to the demand that prices were maintained.

So we have got to this stage: the export market, over which we have no control, has gone to pieces; the local market, over which we can obtain absolute control, is being wrecked by foolishness, or we will say selfishness, which is perhaps the better word, as it is being done by men who seem to say:—"I am not going to bother about what has been done by other men to help me to obtain this price; I am going to help myself, and risk the future. If the beekeepers of the Association lose the £5,475 they have subscribed for the benefit of those engaged in the industry (which has meant pounds and pounds in my pocket), I do not care; I am going to take all the benefits, and they can bear the losses." That is the whole truth of the position, and it has an ugly look.

There is just one other aspect of the question. As we have said, the H.P.A. will have a surplus this year over what the local market can absorb. What are they to do with it? The export market will not pay, and if any quantity is exported, the local market will have to make good the difference in price realised in the two markets. For instance, if the local market can absorb 300 tons, and for purpose of argument this nets the Association 8d. per lb. They have another, say, 300 tons, which must be exported, which, putting the English value at 45/-, nets them about 3½d. per lb. That will bring the average price of the whole output to 5½d. per lb., out of which has to come the working expenses.

They have agreed to advance 5d. per lb., and do not lose sight of the fact that it is an advance only; the probability is there will be progress payments made to bring it up considerably, as has been done heretofore.

For 25 years previous to the formation of the co-operative marketing system, commercial beekeeping had been carried on in New Zealand, and the quotations given earlier will prove that the prices had never advanced beyond the region of 4d. for bulk and 9/- for 2lb. tins. From the very

start of the co-operative system, the price has steadily improved to the amount being realised to-day. It is quite possible that last year saw the top price we shall receive for our honey, as the export markets that absorbed a large part of the crop are not payable now. But the N.Z. market, which we again affirm is the most payable, can be absolutely controlled and prices maintained if the beekeepers will only study their own interests. These are to be found only in the co-operative system, by putting all their honey through the one source, and regulating the supply to the demand. Much has been done in increasing the sales on the local market, and if the same strides are made the next few years as have been made in the last two, the whole of our crop can be sold in New Zealand at the payable price now ruling here. Another aspect is that the selling of our produce in New Zealand is going to mean a tremendous saving in the cost of containers now necessary in which to ship honey. The increase of local demand means more bottling depots will be necessary; suppliers will send their honey in returnable containers, which can be used year after year. To-day it is costing some suppliers up to £11 per ton for tins and cases, which, if the local market is further developed, will be eliminated.

There has been for some time an agitation for the opening of such bottling depots, and it is quite a right thing too; but the Association must be sure of its ground before going to the necessary expense. These depots will cost a certain amount of money to run, which the honey must produce. Supposing that the honey depots and general expenses cost ½d. per lb. to run, and the advance paid the suppliers is, say, 5d. What is going to happen to the depot if a certain number of beekeepers sell their crops in the district, and these are sufficient to preclude the selling of the depot's honey? It would have to be shipped elsewhere, thereby defeating the very purpose the depot was established for, with double expenses incurred. Once get absolute loyalty, and you can "go in and win," but with uncertainty in getting supplies and possible under-selling, you are powerless to make headway.

There is another forcible argument in favour of developing the local market to the absorbing of the whole of our crop: that is, there would be no work for the Government graders, and the whole of their time could be utilised in the work of inspection, thereby giving us the services of three extra men on this important work that is so urgently desired. All honey sent to the bottling depots would be graded by the man in charge, and it would be quite a workable and satisfactory arrangement too.

THE CONFERENCE, Chamber of Commerce, Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th. BE THERE!

We have written at length on this matter, because we are convinced that this year will largely determine the success or failure of beekeeping as a means of livelihood. There is a clear, straightforward course which will mean everyone engaged being assured of a payable price for his product, and that is by the co-operative system of marketing. The haphazard way, every man for himself and against his fellow, was tried for twenty-five years in this country, and has been tried for a longer period in other countries, and has been found wanting. Do not let it be said that we let such a grand opportunity slip through foolish selfishness.

Apropos of the above remarks. At the Conference held in 1914, when the co-operative system of marketing was one of the matters before the meeting, the President, *inter alia*, made the following remark:—"However, beekeepers all over the Dominion are beginning to see the advantages which will accrue from combined and united action. . . . All that is needed now is to obtain the thorough and hearty co-operation of every beekeeper in the Dominion."

There is also one other very interesting remark made at the same time and place. "Mr. W. E. Barker (Peel Forest) said that he had had an experience which showed him the practical value of the National. Having lately exported some honey, he had obtained an advance of 3d. per lb. on it within three weeks. That was very nice, and a great improvement on the old order of things." (Please don't laugh!)

Now, friends, is it not ludicrous to have to plead with men to avoid getting back to this stage, when an advance of 3d. per lb. within three weeks of consigning was a great improvement on the old order of things? May the saints preserve us from the older order: that which was satisfactory at the time seems pretty poor just now. And the wrecking policy will bring it about again!

The whole of the above remarks, which although entirely on the selling end of the business, and really outside the work of the National Association are written because we want those who have come into the industry of late years to realise what we who have borne "the burden and heat of the day" have gone through; and it is to appeal to them not to do anything that will in any way endanger their own prosperity in the future or undo that which has taken so much time and money in the past to bring about. Not only so, but if the selling end of the business goes to pieces, then the National Association is not worth bothering with, as the aims and objects of the Association are the prosperity and betterment of those engaged in the industry, which is chiefly the amount of cash realised for honey. Therefore, we make no apology for writing at length on the co-operative marketing system.

We were pleased to learn that Mr. A. B. Trythall, the officer in charge of the Experimental Apiary at Ruakura, was at the end of the season presented with a camera by the cadets as a mark of their appreciation of his interest and work with them. We also learn that Mr. Trythall was successful in another experiment—the first for five years—the mating of a lady and gentleman cadet, Mr. Trythall himself giving the bride away at the wedding. The couple have built a "hive" north of Auckland, and we wish them luck. (Say, friend T., we hope they are purely mated! What!)

It will be remembered that at the last Conference a resolution was passed to ask the Government to put a tax on beekeepers for the purpose of finding sufficient money to pay the salaries of more inspectors for the elimination of disease. Mainly for the purpose of getting the principle agreed to, the proposal was that all beekeepers should be taxed £1 per head, but it was generally conceded that an adjustment or graduation would be necessary, that neither the one-hive man should be unfairly handicapped, or the commercial man get the benefit without paying his share.

The Standing Committee went very thoroughly into the matter, and the following scale was unanimously agreed to:—1 to 5 hives, 5/- per annum; 6 to 15, 10/-; 16 to 50, 15/-; 51 to 100, 20/- per annum; and 5/- extra for every 100 or part thereof above 100 hives. This scale has been presented to the Government; but as there is a possibility that the matter will not be settled by the time Conference arrives, probably the question will be asked as to how far it has proceeded; therefore, we think the information given above will do no harm.

Mr. T. W. Kirk, at the Ruakura Field Day, gave the number of hives registered to that date (February 16th) as 78,000; the total registrations being 5,565.

The question now being considered is what amount of money this number of hives would raise on the proposed scale of taxation? Until the registered lists are gone through, it is difficult to estimate, but we think we can get at least a workable idea by the following. Every registered beekeeper must pay at least 5/-, and on the number registered this would raise £1,391. But we would approximate the result to be somewhere near the following:

Minimum tax, 3,000 at 5/-	£775 0 0
6 to 15—1000 at 10/-	500 0 0
16 to 50—775 at 15/-	387 0 0
51 to 100—500 at 20/-	500 0 0
Over 100—290 at 30/- average	435 0 0
5,565	£2,592 10 0

The "Queen City of the North" invites you to make a call on June 8th, 9th and 10th—Chamber of Commerce.

The actual figures may, of course, show the return to come out considerably more or less, and must not be taken otherwise than absolute conjecture, although we feel they are somewhere near what the figures will eventually prove. In any case, we feel it will be generally conceded that the beekeepers are being compelled to put their hands in their pockets more heavily in proportion than any other industry, and that for a purpose that really should be absolutely unnecessary. Because when you boil the whole question down, what has brought about this question of taxation? The Government's negligence in enforcing the provisions of the Apiaries Act. There can be no question about that. What sort of legislation is this? Let us draw an analogy. A certain district is given over to lawlessness, and people are losing money and property through others breaking the law. The district appeals to the Government for protection by the police to enforce the law. The Government says, "Yes; we quite recognise you are losing money and property by people breaking the law, but we haven't got the money to pay the policemen." This is not Government protection—it is tomfoolery: a situation you would find in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. And you will recognise the analogy is sound. Beekeepers are losing money and property by the law not being enforced through the lack of necessary officers. One beekeeper in the Thames Valley owning 400 hives had to treat 300 in the spring for foul-brood, and he a careful and up-to-date beekeeper. His crop from the 400 hives was four tons, and he (quite reasonably) computes his loss through the disease as four tons. On to-day's prices this means he has lost about £200.

We venture to state that if a person lost £200 in one hit through the lack of policemen to enforce the law in a district, there would be such a howl that would shake the Government pretty suddenly.

During the war legislation was passed to close the hotels at 6 o'clock, because it was deemed to be necessary for the good of the community. Would the Government, after passing the Act, have dared to say to the people they had not enough money to carry out their own legislation? But the Government tells the beekeepers so, and they have been foolish enough to be put on a false trail. They have continually raised the dust every time we have approached them, and we have lost sight of the real issue.

How are the producers of other commodities treated? The farmer who is trying to keep his farm free of noxious weeds or rabbits, does he have to put his hand in his pocket to pay the salary of the inspector to protect him? Not a bit! The pig farmer, whose living is endangered by a careless neighbour allowing swine fever to be amongst his pigs, is he called upon to pay for protection? Not on your life! The dairyman, to whom blackleg is a serious matter, is he called upon to pay

the cost of inoculating the calves? The Government knows better than to ask him. The fruit-grower, who has a careless neighbour who allows disease in his orchard, is he told there is not sufficient money available to keep his neighbour within the law? No danger! But when we come to beekeepers, who have a menace to the industry continually hanging over them; whose losses run into thousands of pounds every year, and, according to the opinions expressed at the last Conference by visitors from all parts of the land, the disease is no more under control than it ever was—in fact, some opinions were that it was getting worse. When we ask for the necessary protection, we are told it is not possible to do any more than is being done with the present staff; and the Government cannot appoint more men because they have not the money—which, we submit, is dodging the issue.

When fireblight became an actual menace to the fruit-grower, what happened? The cry for protection of the industry went up from one end of the Dominion to the other; deputations waited on the Minister of Agriculture, Director-general, and Director of Horticulture; the utmost publicity given in the press; and there was not a man in the Dominion who did not know the menace fireblight was to the fruit industry. What was the result of this? Thousands of pounds have been spent to try and hold the disease in check; special legislation brought up and passed for the protection of the orchardist; and according to those who know best, with no very sanguine opinion as to the ultimate result. There was no question of not having the money!

Beekeepers have the most easily controlled disease possible; the cause is not in the air being blown about; it is localised in certain spots—viz., diseased hives, which are at once controllable, and the source of infection can be at once disposed of. The existing Apiaries Act passed by the Government affords every protection necessary, and the Government passing such an Act cannot possibly shield itself by stating that it will not spend the money to enforce its own legislation.

Another aspect.—When a body of men start an industry to manufacture any commodity, the Government in most cases protects them and their capital by the imposition of a protective tariff, that N.Z. industry may be encouraged. Would it be reasonable for the Government to say to these manufacturers: "Yes, we have got a Customs tariff to protect your industry, but we have not got the money to staff the Customs Department; so you will have to suffer!" What rot!

Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAY,
Barry's Bay.

We submit that our industry is being kept back from its full development by such a paltry argument, and the beekeepers are foolish to put up with it. Last year we wrote in the April issue:—"If a move in our favour is not forthcoming, then we propose that the whole of the members of Parliament be circularised, drawing attention to the actual grievances we are working under, which must be and have been admitted by the Apiaries Division."

We submit that these are the lines on which we should work, rather than the doubtful expedient of getting ourselves taxed. We have every right to demand the full protection granted under existing legislation for every one who owns a hive of bees. Have we the same right to ask for a tax to be placed on the same class? We think not!

Now, look at it in this light: There were at the last Conference about 100 to 150 beekeepers, chiefly, but not all, members of the National Association. On the representation of this gathering we are proposing to place a tax on 5,575 beekeepers, and that without their knowledge or consent. We certainly are not going to increase the good feeling towards the National by so doing; but if we can bring about better conditions for this number by other means—which we reiterate is the very thing the Apiaries Act was passed for—then we have their goodwill and assistance right at the jump.

Our opinion is that the resolution relating to the imposition of the tax passed at the last Conference should be rescinded, and in its place put the following machinery in motion:—

1. Circulars to be printed for distribution to the Minister, Director-general, officers of the Department, and members of Parliament, drawing attention to the protection afforded by the Apiaries Act and the negligence shown in getting the staff appointed to carry out the law.
2. Pamphlets printed for distribution to every beekeeper in the land, stating the case clearly, with an enclosure to be sent to the sitting member over a personal letter signifying their approval of the contents of the pamphlet and asking for the member's support.

There would be nothing easier than this, and we are convinced nothing that would give us the desired result with less friction or injustice to those engaged in beekeeping. And if you really are anxious to get the full protection of the Apiaries Act and want money raised for this purpose, then £100 or so will be sufficient. It would pay for advertising our wrongs in the Press, enable more frequent deputations to be made to the Minister, also defray the cost of printing and sending circulars to every member of Parliament at intervals. Mr. G. R. Witty, M.P., admitted to the Editor that as far as his opinion went when the subject of beekeeping came up for discussion in the House, the matter was not

considered by the members to be of sufficient importance to trouble much about.

Now, then, supposing we DID let the members know it was of sufficient importance; supposing we gave them all the information that would enable them to see how unjustly the industry has been and is still being treated, and get the matter debated across the floor of the house; supposing we get every member of the same opinion as Mr. J. A. Young, M.P., who attended the 1918 Conference, and in his speech made the following remarks to the beekeepers:—"It was only by organised co-operation that pressure could be brought upon the authorities. . . . Their success depended entirely upon themselves, and they were entitled to every consideration, not only from the Department, but from the State and all interested in the welfare of the community." Get the consideration we are entitled to, and the necessity for the tax vanishes into thin air.

The more we study the matter, the more we are convinced that the passing of the resolution at last Conference was effected without the matter receiving sufficient consideration. Beekeepers have every right to the protection the law gives, without having to pay for it; and as Mr. G. R. Witty, M.P. for Riccarton, told those assembled at the Field Day at Avonhead last February, that once they got a tax put on them they would never get it lifted, it emphasises the fact that we should look well before we leap.

On looking over the report of last Conference on this matter of taxation of apiaries, we find the following resolution was passed:—

"That it be a recommendation to the Executive to canvass the Branches to get a signed petition from the members of all the Branches in support of the proposed tax on apiaries."

We are exceedingly sorry this has been overlooked, due entirely to the Secretary's omission, and an apology is hereby tendered to the mover and seconder. However, as soon as the omission was noticed, the resolution was acted upon, and the notices sent out to the Branches on 16th April. This will give plenty of time for the matter to be discussed before Conference, and until the whole of the members of the National have had a chance of expressing their opinion, we submit we are not doing the right thing by going on with the matter. And we think there are three issues to be considered:—

"Is it a wise policy to get ourselves taxed when it is the Government's bounden duty to give us the necessary protection afforded by the existing Apiaries Act?"

"If in favour of a tax, is the proposed scale of tax endorsed?"

"If not, what scale is suggested?"

We feel this course is the only way we can get a fair and honest expression of the beekeepers of the Dominion on such an important and far-reaching matter. Because it must be remembered that the resolution was proposed without any previous notice being given those who were unable to attend the Conference; it had never been suggested in public; not one absent member had a chance of saying a word for or against the proposal; the Conference had no mandate from its absent members; and our opinion is that before the matter is finally settled, the Branches must be given a chance of expressing an opinion.

With these few remarks, we leave you to think the matter out for yourselves. If you want to be taxed, the Government is ready, and very willing to put it on to you pretty heavily: you will have no difficulty whatever on that score!

Last month (April 1st) we sent out the post-cards to be filled in for crop reports. There's evidently a wag in Dunedin, who sent the card without stamping it, and the Editor had to pay 3d. to get possession. When he looked to see whose it was, there were no particulars filled in! Good for you!

Please note that all remits must be in the Secretary's hands not later than the 29th of the month, if they are to be embodied in the programme of the Conference and time allotted for their discussion.

Since the foregoing remarks on the selling end of the business were written, the following information has come to us:

From Dunedin:—"Honey in lots from a few cwt. to 10 tons has been offered, mostly from shareholders of the H.P.A."

From Dannevirke:—"£140 worth sold from a Taranaki shareholder, and more following."

From Palmerston North:—"A shareholder is advertising at 9d. and 10d. per lb."

From Hastings:—"A shareholder is selling at 7½d."

It is also rumoured that Canterbury honey is being offered in Dannevirke at 5½d. and 6d. per lb. delivered.

This information has come from an absolutely reliable source, and we do not question it for one moment.

So the "rot" has set in badly!

Send for Pamphlet on "BEESWAX."

6d. POST FREE.

W. B. BRAY,
Barry's Bay.

We all must study economy these days. Allan Bates is going to show you "Economy in Production." Good chap, Allan!—Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

Market Reports.

The market continues slow, with lower prices. There were about 240 barrels Chilean sold last month. Sellers are pressing their stocks at reduced prices, but without result. There are offers about at 38/6 c.i.f., but no business has resulted. Buyers seem inclined to base their prices on pre-war prices.

Beeswax.—The market is much weaker. Seven tons Chilean have been sold at £7 per cwt. ex store for March delivery. African and other descriptions are offering cheap, around £5 per cwt.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 2nd February, 1921.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the apiaary instructors the following reports concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—There is no change to report in regard to the price of honey since last month. Beeswax, however, has dropped considerably. Latest quotes are from 1/6 to 2/- per lb. The weather during March has been exceptionally dry, cutting off the autumn supply of nectar.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—Extracting is just about finished throughout the district, and good crops have been gathered everywhere, excepting in Poverty Bay. The nectar supply has now been completely cut off everywhere. Prices are firm, as reported last month. Beeswax is quoted at 2/- per lb. Section honey is available at 1/3 per lb. A few lines are already forward for export at the various grading stores.—P. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—The season is practically finished. Extracting is in progress in many districts. Beekeepers are busy putting their bees into winter quarters. A few small lines are forward for export. Prices are firm.—E. A. Earp.

Annual Meeting of the N.Z. Co-op Honey Producers' Assn., Ltd.

The above meeting was held at the Hall of the Public Baths at Hamilton on Wednesday, 30th March, 1921, at 11 a.m. There were present: Messrs. C. F. Ryland (general manager), H. Fraser (accountant), E. W. Sage, A. H. Davies (directors of the H.P.A.), and about 25 shareholders.

Mr. A. H. Davies occupied the chair. After reading the notice for which the meeting was called, Mr. Davies said he

would follow out the custom that was usual at this meeting, and move—"That the meeting adjourn till the 7th June, at the Chamber of Commerce, Auckland." He pointed out the reason of this was that this meeting was called only for the purpose of complying with the Statute, and the motion was intended to avoid the possibility of so few shareholders passing resolutions that might affect the whole body. Full opportunity for full discussion on the whole policy of the Association will be given at the adjourned meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. F. C. Baines.

Mr. J. S. Cotterell moved as an amendment—"That the balance sheet be discussed." This was seconded by Mr. H. C. Jones.

On a show of hands, the original motion was carried.

Mr. Cotterell then asked for certain information relative to items in the balance sheet. Mr. Ryland replied.

Mr. Cotterell stated he wanted the following resolution passed, but the adjournment of the meeting prevented him.

Resolution: "That a detailed statement be prepared and forwarded to members of the H.P.A. one month before the adjourned annual meeting in June next—(1) showing the total charges debited to local sales of honey; (2) to Supplies Department; (3) to Export Honey Sales, as per balance sheet dated 31st December, 1920."

To test the feeling of the meeting only, this was put and lost on the voices.

Resolution: "That it be a recommendation to the adjourned annual meeting that, in view of the large expense incurred in fees and travelling expenses of the directors, the number be reduced to four."

It was explained that owing to the directors being required to sign a bond to the bank, it was impossible to get this done by a smaller number than at present.

The resolution was lost on the voices.

Mr. C. F. Ryland then gave a full address on the past and present policy of the Association, indicating that with loyalty on the part of the beekeepers prosperity was assured. He gave particulars of the new arrangement made with the firm in England, which was one of the largest handling New Zealand produce. This firm had a splendidly equipped selling organisation in England, which the New Zealand honey producers would get the benefit of.

The whole tone of Mr. Ryland's remarks was cheerful, optimistic, and of confidence in the future.

Before the meeting closed, it was felt desirable that the meeting should again draw the Department's attention to the continual menace of foul-brood disease, and on the motion of Mr. A. H. Davies, seconded by Mr. C. F. Horn, the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting press for the immediate appointment of more inspectors for this district owing to foul-brood being rampant in the Province."

This was carried unanimously, and was wired to the Department.

After the usual vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting adjourned.

THE N.Z. CO-OP. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION LTD.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

(By "Cambist," in "N.Z. Truth.")

That there is no go-slow society amongst bees is made plain by reading the seventh annual report of the above Association. The Association is able to tell its members that it handled 482 tons of honey for the year ended December last. This, however, is not a record for the Association, as it had larger figures to quote on previous occasions. The honey industry is very much affected by the seasons. The year 1920 was a poor one from a production point of view. Still, the bees kept busy, and went on gathering the sweet morsels from every flower or plant that held the nectar.

The nominal capital of the Association is £20,000, in £2 shares, of which £13,976 was subscribed at date of the balance-sheet, less £8,839 of uncalled capital and calls in arrears, plus £339 calls paid in advance, leaves the paid-up capital at £5,475 at end of December. On this slender capital is reared over £13,000 of debt. The Association owes the Bank of New South Wales an overdraft of £5,094. It owed sundry creditors £8,696, and it had a reserve fund of £153. To the mind of this writer such a financial position appears dangerous, as the business is very speculative in many directions, besides what falls to it through climatic vagaries. However, there is a decent sum of uncalled capital in sight, and the sooner that money is turned into the bank account of the Association, the better it will prove for the good of the Association and its members. Bank interest for the year came to £288, and that is a gentle reminder that borrowed money is too costly for competition with owned money. It would be interesting to know how the Association has so much outstanding to sundry creditors and who these creditors are. The question arises, Are the creditors trade creditors, or are they suppliers to the Association?—in the latter case members of that body. Without speculating further on these points, "Cambist" will say that in his opinion, the load of debt is too heavy to make for comfortable business serenity.

Turning to the assets side of the balance-sheet, office furniture and fittings stand in at £414. Plant stands at £553; loans secured, £687; sundry debtors, £10,314. The magnitude of the last-mentioned item calls for notice. One wonders if that sum is

made up of many retail accounts, or whether it represents consignments, or, again, wholesalers' debts. Evidently the whole fortune of the borrowed money, paid-up capital and sundry creditors is profoundly bound up in this item. What if there be a large percentage of doubtful settlements spread through the total here expressed? If that should prove to be the case, where then is there any provision for doubtful dependencies? In other words, how much has been written down or put aside to meet untoward realisations? The accounts to hand are quite clearly omitting any reference to such things. Perhaps they do not exist. Let us hope not, but one must be pardoned for raising the questions. The stocks on hand item does not distinguish the class of stocks. How much of this is honey, and how much is for fittings and other supplies awaiting purchasers? If only our companies would set out their accounts in proper detail, what a lot of speculative thought would be avoided.

The general revenue and trading account is most unsatisfactory to "Cambist." Looking at the income side of this account, one finds that all of the revenue, save bad debts and interest received, is made up of balances which have resulted after numerous deductions have been taken off. In other words, there is only a net revenue in place of a gross revenue. This sort of thing hides a great many facts which this writer considers should be made available for the members of the Association. Surely the producers ought to know what it has cost the Association for freights, cartages, storage and general charges in connection with the incoming balance of £20,257 from export honey sales? Yet there is not a line in this account to let these people know anything about these matters. The balance from local sales of honey (£17,383) and the balance from beekeepers' supplies department (£1,244) are both built upon similar lines. In neither case is any information given as to the amount of costs that have been paid before the balances have been struck.

Turning to the debit side of this wonderful revenue and trading account, matters are better set out. It would appear from the items given there that advances to the suppliers have been on the liberal side, and also that there is considerable expense in running the business. In spite of this, a profit of £1,108 is shown for the year. Six per cent. is to be paid on the paid-up capital, which absorbs £230. The balance left over is to be added to the reserve account, and the resulting sum is then to be applied to a sinking fund with which to pay off the bank overdraft. If that sort of business is satisfactory to the bank, then let no one say that banks have no hearts. The process seems to be a long drawn out procedure, but a call for the funds to be paid in by the shareholders would put more speed into the settlement.

The Bristol and Dominions Producers' Associations has gone into liquidation. It

seems that the defunct concern has not yet settled for the honey crops covered by the years 1918 and 1919. Very little more is expected from the corporate corpse in connection with the consignments for the years mentioned. That is bad news. The best thing in the report is the fact that the local sales of honey have doubled themselves for the year closed. We note that £21,212 worth of honey was exported, while £33,347 was sold locally. Supplies gave a return of £17,101, the lot making a total of £71,660. Wonderful little bees!

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

I must apologise to some of the local beemen for not calling the promised meeting. The H.P.A. balance-sheet arrived so late in the day that there was no time left to call a meeting and still have time to nominate someone for the directorate. However, I interviewed as many of the local apiarists as possible in the short time, with the result that Mr. A. R. Bates has been nominated. Mr. Bates was one of the original directors when the company was formed, and I hope he will receive the support of all Taranaki beekeepers, and many others as well. I will leave it to Mr. Bates to state his own policy, but I might say that he is, as most of you know, a thoroughly experienced beekeeper, and while away with the Forces he held an instructor's post which, with the opportunity of travel and an observant nature, has no doubt placed him in possession of information about the English markets that would be useful on the Board.

If any district is entitled to representation on the Board, I guess Taranaki is (the home of the H.P.A.), and I hope that outside shareholders will remember that on voting day.

Extracting is mostly completed, and crops have been good.

Mr. Nicholas, who has taken a contract for re-tinning H.P.A. honey, has just completed his new shed and plant, and it is well worth inspection.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 15/4/21.

AUCKLAND.

During the winter months a series of lectures, beginning this month, will be held, including moving pictures and lantern slides showing all stages of the bee-keeping industry, which will no doubt prove very interesting to beginners and also experienced beekeepers. Further particulars can be obtained from the secretary, Mr. U. A. Forgie, Lucerne road, Remuera.

The "father" of N.Z. beekeeping (Mr. I. Hopkins) has something good up his sleeve for the Conference. Don't miss him! Auckland, June 8th, 9th, and 10th.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Auckland Provincial Branch will be held on Friday, May 27th, at the Baths, Hamilton, at 10.30 a.m. Business: Reports of sub-branches; appoint delegate for the Conference; election of officers for the ensuing year; and general. As there are some very important matters to be discussed, a full attendance is requested.

A. H. DAVIES.

WAIPA.

"Never spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar."

A meeting of the above Club was held in Te Awamutu on 11th March, Mr. H. Bartlett-Miller in the chair.

The principal business of the meeting consisted in the drawing up of the rules.

The motion passed at the last meeting of affiliation with the Hamilton Provincial Branch of the N.Z. National B.K.A. was rescinded, it being decided, the secretary dissenting, to affiliate direct with headquarters.

Bitterness was conspicuous by its absence, to use an old expression, and a pleasing determination to help each other and see things through with regard to the eradication of disease, the registration of all bees, and the helping of the inspectors to carry out their duties was most heartily exhibited by every member present.

HUGH C. JONES, Secretary.

WEST COAST.

A meeting of the above Branch was held in the Coronation Hall at Ross on Saturday, 5th March, at 7.30 p.m., there being a fair number of beekeepers present, including Messrs. Baty, Dixon, Airey, Cochran and Hornsby, delegates from Greymouth.

Mr. A. Baty was voted to the chair, and in his opening remarks stated that he was pleased to see there was an interest taken in the beekeeping industry in Ross and surrounding district. He would call on Mr. Geo. Dixon to address them on the aims and objects of the National Beekeepers' Association. Mr. Dixon stated that he was sorry that there were not more present, but since his arrival in Ross he had learnt that some of the beekeepers had not seen the advt. relative to the meeting, owing to the scattered nature of the district; but he believed there were some present who would not let the grass grow under their feet once they got going. The day had arrived in New Zealand when beekeeping was looked upon as more than a hobby: it had become an industry, and the aims of the Association were to get measures placed upon the Statute Book that would be of benefit to the industry. Such measures could only be got by co-operation. They were out to stamp out foul-brood, which after all was not such a

hard matter, provided every beekeeper would do his or her part. New Zealand was looked upon as being the most progressive in the world so far as laws relative to beekeeping were concerned, and New Zealand honey was second to none. Therefore, he would urge all present to join the West Coast Branch, as "Unity was strength."

Mr. Airey spoke on the work of the West Coast Branch in its fortnightly lectures, and the questions answered for the benefit of beginners.

Mr. Baty spoke on the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association. Such an Association was really the making of the industry in New Zealand. This country did not consume one-third of the honey it produced; therefore they had to find a market elsewhere. The H.P.A. had stepped into the breach, and made it possible for beekeepers to profitably market their surplus. The H.P.A. was also packing a standard honey for the New Zealand trade, and the sales of "Imperial-Bee" honey was increasing by leaps and bounds, over 500,000 lbs. of this brand being sold within the last twelve months. He also stated the miserable price offered by private dealers before the introduction of the H.P.A., and maintained that if the beekeepers of New Zealand let the H.P.A. down, they would be in such a position that the game would not pay for the stings. Therefore, he would urge all present to stand by their own Co-operative Association.

Mr. Murdock, of Ross, moved that Mr. Allen be appointed to wait on the various beekeepers in the surrounding district with a view to getting them to form a sub-branch of the West Coast Branch.

A vote of thanks to the various speakers for the trouble they had taken in coming so far to address them was passed on the motion of Mr. Murdock, seconded by Mr. Allen.

The meeting then closed, thus making what we believe to be a nucleus of a sub-branch in Ross.

G. R. D.

Brunner.

HAWKE'S BAY.

The chief event of the past month has been the visit of Mr. Gilling. A great number of people learned more in a few minutes about foul-brood than they had learned before in years. Some were surprised to learn of the necessity of keeping bees in movable frame hives; and some had the opinion rudely forced on them that bees should not be stuck away beneath the hedge and left for years without attention. Yes! And the magistrate of the district learned that a certain penalty he inflicted was "a thundering farce."

Mr. Gilling had some busy days. Several beekeepers gave of their time, and piloted the inspector round the district. The result has been in favour of a general cleaning-up

of disease. One beekeeper found his way to court, and received a fine of next to nothing.

At a general meeting of beekeepers, we had an address from Mr. Gilling. From his rich experience the speaker was able to compare the hives he had opened with what might be found at this season in other countries, and to give practical advice to the bee-farmers. Several have since expressed keen appreciation of Mr. Gilling's visit.

J. P. BOYLE.

18th April, 1921.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

Fellow-beekeepers, I once more offer my respects to you, and trust that if your crops have not come up to expectations, you will console yourselves with the thought that next season may be a better one. Reports to date indicate that in Canterbury the season has been disappointing. However, the old saying, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," still holds good, so we will hope (and work) on.

In looking through my colonies about the end of February, I was particularly struck with the way the bees were breeding. The weather had been dull and cool for several weeks, and as the conditions were unfavourable for honey gathering, the bees evidently decided to use up their superfluous energy in breeding at a rate I have never previously seen equalled at this time of the year. If plenty of young bees means good wintering and strong colonies in spring, I shall not worry.

Some little time ago I was asked if it was true that I never used a smoker when handling bees. The question somewhat surprised me, as it was evident from what followed that someone has made the statement under a wrong impression. I have often been told of people (generally it's somebody's grandmother, or uncle, or aunt, or some vague personage who lived a long time ago), who could do anything (and everything) with bees, and never—no, never!—get stung. They did not use smoker, or gloves, or veil, &c., &c. But I have yet to make the acquaintance of anyone answering this description. I have occasionally worked all day and hardly had occasion to use the smoker; but I rarely open a hive without having it handy. I very rarely smoke at the entrance of a hive, especially when honey is not coming in, as there is danger of robbing if overdone. Yes, I use a smoker, and use common sense at the same time.

Is beekeeping a science, or is it all guess-work? This thought keeps coming up in

my mind the more I read on the subject. After ten years pretty close observation I have not yet made up my mind. Mr. Stewart's contribution to the discussion, "Do Virgins Need Royal Jelly?" upsets Jay Smith's "apple-cart," and now "where are we?" The advice given to Mr. Barker by a college professor never to accept a statement as true till you prove it yourself seems sound, but the trouble is we should need to live to the age of Methusala to find out all we want to know about bees "and then some," as our American cousins say.

The annual conference of the N.B.A. and adjourned annual meeting of the H.P.A. is fast approaching, and many will wonder what will be the outcome. I have more than once expressed my confidence in those who are at the helm, and do so again. Many sermons could be preached on "loyalty," "solidarity," and virtues of that kind, but I refrain. The subject has been referred to many times during the last six months, so I need not go over the ground again; but I would just like to say that the chief danger we have to face now is dissension in our own ranks. When we bear in mind the fact that the directors bear a heavy financial liability, and are engaged in the industry for a living, it should be sufficient guarantee that our business will be faithfully attended to. I think it is up to us to give them every assistance in our power, and refrain from anything which will in any way embarrass them.

The National Dairy Show and the Honey Industry.

The following letters were received by the President:—

Cuba street, Palmerston N.,
February 7th, 1921.

The President,
N.Z. Beekeepers' Association.

Dear Sir,—

I have pleasure in advising that the dates set apart for the National Dairy Show, 1921, are the 21st to 24th June next, at the same time pointing out that a special Championship Schedule for honey has been provided in the schedule for several years past now.

It is scarcely necessary for me to point out how very backward are the honey producers of the Dominion in taking advantage of the magnificent opportunities of

THE CONFERENCE promises to be one of the best.—Chamber of Commerce, Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th. You'll be foolish to miss it!

"boosting" the industry which are obtainable at the National Dairy Show. The dairy produce people were not slow to recognise the benefits accruing from active participation in the show, whereas the honey growers are strangely neglectful. Show after show comes and goes, with very poor exhibits of this most important article of diet, whilst there does not appear to be any desire to gain the championship offered.

I may add that the schedule of classes was compiled by the Director of Orchards, Gardens and Apiaries, with the hope that competition would be stimulated, but I regret to say that the honey division is, if anything, worse than previously was the case.

I shall be glad if you can do something to stir up interest in this direction, as there is no better means of advertising the product than by good show displays.

If I can be supplied with a list of members, I will circularise them and send copies of the schedule, but I think that official cognisance should be taken of the matter by your Executive, and some steps taken to impress on the members the advantages of showing.

Awaiting your views hereon, and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,
W. T. PENNY,
Secretary.

Cuba St., Palmerston N.,
February, 1921.

NATIONAL DAIRY SHOW, 1921.

Dear Sir,—

I have pleasure in advising that the dates fixed for the above event are the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th June next. As you are possibly interested in the honey industry, I am directed by my Committee to draw your attention to the fact that no better or surer way of advertising and popularising that industry can be obtained than by open show competitions and displays. Not only does showing fulfil the two requirements mentioned, but it has great effect in stimulating the production of high-grade and better packed goods.

Several years ago the Winter Show Committee of this Association, in collaboration with the Director of the Horticultural Division, set up a special schedule of classes for honey and its products, for the purpose of encouraging the industry, and in hope that advantage would be taken of the opportunity of bringing this very desirable food product into greater use.

I regret to say that the advantage has not been taken up by the honey farmers, and this circular is forwarded to ask if you cannot do something in the direction indicated above. The prizes are:—Comb and Jar Honey—1st, 15/-; 2nd, 7/6. Export Honey—1st, 30/-; 2nd, 15/- Beeswax and vinegar—1st, 10/-; 2nd, 5/-; with a

gold medal for the Champion Case of Export Honey if there are three or more competitors.

There are twelve classes provided, and if you are interested in the matter I shall be pleased to forward you a schedule when they are printed.

Trusting that you will give this your careful consideration and support.

Yours faithfully,
W. T. PENNY,
Secretary.

Accommodation for Visitors at Conference.

In connection with the holding of the Conference at Auckland, we communicated with six private hotels asking for the tariffs, but failed to get replies from three of them. The following replied:—

People's Palace, Upper Queen street, Auckland.—£2 10s. per week; 8/- per day.

Rossville, Eden crescent, Auckland.—For bed and breakfast only, 6/6 per day. No other meals supplied. Bed only, 3/6 per night.

Y.M.C.A.—No accommodation.

Northland, Cargen, and Stonehurst are superior hotels, from 15/- to 17/6 per day.

Delegates to the Conference are recommended to secure accommodation early, as Auckland always seems full of visitors.

An Appeal.

TO THE NORTHERN MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION.

As Vice-President of the Association, and the mover of the resolution passed last Conference recommending the next Conference being held in Auckland, which has been acted upon, I would like to point out that it is quite possible that the opportunity for attending another Conference in Auckland will not occur for many years, and I am anxious that we shall be able to show the beekeepers of the Dominion that the recommendation was warranted, and that the forthcoming Conference in June shall beat all records, both as regards work done, papers of merit and interest, and attendance of members.

Yours for the industry.
E. W. SAGE.

It is said the Auckland beekeepers are going "eyes out" to make the Conference a "hammer." June 8th, 9th and 10th, Chamber of Commerce, Auckland.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the National.

[NOTE.—The following amendment, being rather lengthy, we thought it advisable to give the members a chance of thoroughly studying it before it is submitted to Conference. We are not prepared to defend what took place during the 1913 Conference, but we are prepared to state that of recent years only members of the National have voted on motions. The Secretary asked from the different branch secretaries for a full list of financial members, and the lists were in his possession, so that any voter's bona fides could be established.—Ed.]

Sir,—In submitting the enclosed notice of motion for the forthcoming Conference, I wish to make some reference to a matter which to some of the later members of the National may appear both new and drastic.

It is a notorious fact that to those who, in company with myself, worked so hard in 1913 to place the National upon the solid foundation upon which it now rests, there is a strong feeling that our Association is not obtaining that grip of the interest of the ordinary member which we hoped would result as the outcome of our labours.

To the vast majority of our members, the National is a mere vague something to which they subscribe, because their sense of business justice compels them; but so far as any actual participation in its work goes, the fact must be admitted that unless they can attend the annual Conferences they have no more to do with the actual life of the National than with the man in the moon! This ought not to be!

Unless we can adopt a method whereby those men of brains whose past work has proved their capacity for originating sound ideas for the progress of the National (but whose business arrangements prevent their attendance at the Conferences) can yet have a voice in the affairs of our Association, we shall ever remain in that non-progressive stage—i.e., compared with what we ought to have attained—that now characterises our present condition, which condition utterly precludes the use of any business experience of every member who is unable—and there are many such—to attend the Conferences.

To give members some idea of the chaotic methods now adopted at our annual function, what do you think of this? A few weeks ago I was in a printing works at Auckland discussing bees with the Editor of a bee paper. Talk turned round to the 1913 Conference and what a strenuous time of it some of us had at that momentous gathering. Overhearing a chance remark about the folly of permit-

ting every Tom, Dick, and Harry who attended to vote upon every subject submitted to the meeting, a compositor said to me: "Yes, I was there, and voted for your motion." I asked him was he a bee-man? Imagine my disgust when he replied that he had gone to the Conference just to see what was going, as he was in Wellington and expected to be starting bees, but had taken up the printing instead.

Now, when I tell readers that the motion we were discussing was whether every member present (as I contended) rather than a Committee which had made default of its promised report of a draft Constitution should have a hand in the drawing up of that (our present) Constitution, and that the voting went—11 votes for and 8 votes against the motion (which I therefore got carried)—they will naturally ask what right a mere interloper like our printer friend had to vote upon a matter of such serious import as the drawing up of a Constitution, in which he was to have no further earthly concern, as it turned out. Surely no decent minded individual wants to carry motions with the aid of such very questionable methods as this. Yet at every Conference this is the way of things, and the better men who are unable to attend are shut out of all part in the discussion and voting, and indeed there is no care taken whatever to prove the bona fides of any person present, who may be a chimney sweep so far as anybody at the Conference is concerned—at least, in quite a few cases.

Now, just imagine any sound business corporation carrying on their business in this style. As well ask every chap outside our office to come in and take part in the discussion of the business of Thoroughwork, eh?

The election of officers by every member of the Branches before the Conference ever begins will give every branch member a fair share of partnership in the management of the National. Then if any member absents him or herself from that meeting of the Branch convened to select the candidates, and also to afterwards elect them, the fault lies entirely with themselves. At present there is no incentive to take any interest in the National unless one can attend the Conferences, and that expense undertaken, the vote of the brainiest person there is all of one value with the mere zeal-infected novice, whose enthusiasm is at such burning point as to be absolutely unreliable, and to vanish by reason of its very intensity.

As to the selection of officers, just let me ask how many of our old members can recall the names of half a dozen of the Committee (apart from the Presidents) whose names are familiar to them by reason of any new idea incorporated into the life of the National by their origination. Just take a look through the back numbers of our Journal, and find out how many of the National Executive have given it any

inspirational push, or have suggested any departure from the present way of conducting the National's business in such a manner as to draw into its fold those thousands of disinterested beekeepers who see no reason for joining it because there is no valid interest to be engendered in its affairs.

We want a larger membership, and the only way to materialise that wish is to make the work of the National more fully the work of our Branches, for they (and not so particularly those who can attend the Conferences) are THE National Association.

I grant you that the National is every ready of approach upon any and all interests that any member may wish to consult it upon; but lacking the need of such assistance, the majority of the members of the National have little or nothing to do with it, except pay their dues from one year to another. As a natural result they have not that interest and zeal in the Association which will keep alive their thoughtful determination to get into the Association's ranks every conceivably possible new member. At present there is nothing to prevent—however unlikely any such dastardly trickery may be—still, it is possible to pack a Conference with utter outsiders, and carry anything the interested parties might devise. That was what wrecked the American National Beekeepers' Association when I was a member attached to the Californian Branch some years ago. That Association had over 5,000 members, and is to-day as extinct as the dodo.

To continue our present laughable method—or, rather, lack of method—can only result in just dawdling along, where we should be booming. The suggested additions to our Constitution are to correct the dawdling.

Faithfully yours,

H. BARTLETT BARTLETT-MILLER.
Kihikihi, April 11th.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Be it resolved by the members of the National Beekeepers' Association in Conference assembled:

The following Rules be added to and become part of the Constitution of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

Nominations for officers of the Executive of this Association shall be made by the several Branches at that ordinary meeting of each Branch which immediately precedes a period eight clear weeks before the date fixed for the annual Conference of the National Association.

At such meeting each Branch shall nominate the full number of officers required to fill the personnel of the Executive body of the National Association, and the particular office which each individual is nominated to exercise.

Within four days of such nomination by any Branch, the Branch Secretary shall send the list of nominations to the Secretary of the National Association setting out the particular office which each nominee is selected to fill.

The Secretary of the National Association shall publish in that number of the official organ of the National Association immediately following the receipt by him of the Branch Secretary's report of the nominations the complete list as sent to him, as well as the name of the Branch sending the report.

Any Branch whose secretary shall fail to send such notice of nomination to the Secretary of the National Association within a period of fifty days immediately preceding the date of the annual Conference shall by such default thereby lose its right to vote for the officers of the Executive.

The Secretary of the National Association shall send within forty-five days of the date of the Conference in each year the full list of nominations received from the various Branches to every secretary of each Branch complying with these rules, and only such Branches shall be supplied with the list.

Every Branch which has complied with these rules shall within a period not less than 14 days immediately preceding the date fixed in any year for the Conference call a meeting for the business of electing from the complete list of nominations throughout the Association's Branches that number of officers required to fill the number of the members of the Executive of the National Association for the ensuing year, as well as any other business which the Branch may see fit to transact. The election of such officers shall distinctly state the particular office which each individual elected is elected to fulfil.

Only such persons as have been nominated for particular office in the Executive shall be eligible at the Branch elections to election to such office.

Within forty-eight hours of such election by each Branch, the secretary of the Branch shall send to the Secretary of the National Association the result of such election, together with the number of votes to which his Branch is by membership entitled as per rule of voting powers herein following.

During the progress of the Conference, at such time as the President shall determine, the Secretary of the National Association shall announce the total result of the voting as reported to him by the Branch secretaries, giving the number of the votes from each Branch accorded each individual candidate elected, as well as for those candidates not elected (if any).

In the event of a tie between any candidate or candidates thus elected, then the determination of the matter shall be carried out by oral voting among the duly

accredited delegates from the Branches who shall vote so that those disposed may themselves check the voting. The Secretary shall announce the result of the vote by the delegates, and in the event of a second tie the final result shall lie with the casting vote of the President officiating at the meeting.

The voting power of each delegate shall be that to which his branch was entitled when electing the members of the Executive.

The delegates to the Conference shall be elected by the members of each delegate's Branch at any meeting preceding fifty-six days ahead of the date of the annual Conference which shall be convenient to the Branch to convene.

Each Branch shall elect one voting delegate for the Conference, and no more.

Every duly appointed delegate shall have power of vote upon the tying of election votes as well as upon all notices of motion before the Conference, and each such delegate shall cast his vote in accordance with the instructions given to him by his Branch members as by a majority of his Branch so decided; the value of each delegate's vote to be that which the membership of his Branch shall entitle him in accordance with the rules of voting power following.

The voting power of Branches for purpose of any matter submitted to the Branches for decision shall be at the rate of one vote for every five (5) members or odd portion of five (5) members of each Branch up to the first twenty-five (25) members and one additional vote for every twenty-five (25) members in excess of the first twenty-five (25) but only up to the first one hundred (100) members. No number in excess of 100 members shall count as giving any voting power to any Branch.

As hereinbefore set out the voting power of delegates to the Conference shall be in accordance with this last preceding section.

For the purpose of voting upon all other matters coming before the Conference only those in possession of a ticket duly signed by both the Secretary and President of each individual's Branch setting forth the fact that the holder of such ticket is a fully paid up member of his Branch for the year current shall be entitled to vote. Such ticket shall upon any person's vote being challenged by any other holder of a ticket or by any delegate or other officer of the Executive be produced by the party so challenged when failure to produce a ticket duly signed and for the current year shall void the vote of such challenged person.

Every holder of a financially paid up ticket shall be entitled to one vote only.

Delegates shall for all other purposes of voting than those hereinbefore specified have only one vote, but their election as delegates shall entitle them to vote as fully

financial members of their respective Branch.

Every elected delegate shall obtain from his Branch secretary a credential setting forth his election as delegate for his Branch, which credentials shall be signed both by the Secretary and President of his Branch. He shall present such credential to the Secretary of the National at the Conference before exercising his vote at such Conference, and the Secretary of the National Association shall record the voting power of every delegate in accordance with the number of members in each delegate's Branch, which voting power shall be distinctly set forth in each delegate's credential in terms of these rules.

Every delegate shall upon being challenged by any other delegate or officer of the Executive produce his credentials or lose his vote in default of such production.

All voting by delegates shall be done orally so that any person so determining may himself make record of such voting. The Secretary shall record the results of all delegate voting by taking down the same in writing and convey the result to the President of the meeting for announcement.

Apart from all other matter herein provided, any irregularity resulting from non-compliance with these rules which may appear to affect the election of the Executive shall be determined by vote of the duly accredited delegates by open vote at the Conference in accordance with the immediately preceding section.

As hereinbefore set out, all notices of motion shall be decided by the votes of the duly appointed delegates as voicing the determination of their Branches, and this matter, together with the voting upon tying of election vote, shall be the only special privilege of the delegates.

Breach of Apiaries Act.

William Hunter, Michael Joseph Gleeson and Walter George Hart, of Waikanae, were charged on the information of Frank Jacobsen, inspector under the Apiaries Act, that they kept bees in wrongly constructed hives as required by the Act of 1908.

Inspector Jacobsen said he had inspected defendants' hives, and found that the proper frames were not used. These were necessary in order to detect and deal with disease.

Defendants pleaded guilty, and were convicted and ordered to pay costs 7/- each.

You know Sage, don't you? (Not the herb!) I mean the Waikato beekeeper. He is going to speak on "Ventilation." Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

The Food Value of Honey.

The H.P.A. have recently issued a booklet on the food value of honey; how honey is produced, &c. Generally speaking, it is a very well compiled booklet, but on the pages dealing with the "Food Value of Honey" there are comparative illustrations with explanatory notes which appear likely to be very misleading, to say the least, to the man in the street, for whose information and instruction this booklet is intended, one supposes. On the authority of tables compiled by the Hon. W. B. Barney, of the Iowa Food and Dairy Dept. (rather a high-sounding authority), the booklet states that 7 oz. of honey are equal in food value to any of the following:—12 oz. of beefsteak, 15 oz. of codfish, 20 oz. of eggs (10 eggs), 5 bananas (weight not given), 8 oranges (weight not given). Here we have honey which is purely a fat producing food to generate warmth and energy, compared with such things as beef steak and eggs, which are protein foods, without which the human or any other living creature cannot build up new flesh tissue or replace the worn-out tissue. Honey is also in this table quoted above compared with codfish, which, though perhaps a tasty change in diet, is a most expensive food for results, the proportion of refuse and water amounting to no less than 88 per cent., the remaining 12 per cent. being protein; and from standard tables in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11th edition, codfish would make a showing four times as bad as that of beef when compared with honey. Although it is admitted by competent authorities that the versatile human body is capable of using up an excess of protein in the body by consuming it in the production of energy, it is also claimed in the same quarters that such a process is wasteful in the extreme, and only by supplying the human body with a rational diet, suitable for the habits and work of the individual—only in this way can health and physical fitness be maintained. To attempt to substitute protein food with a fat-forming food, such as honey, would be as absurd, though not quite so expensive in money, as it would be to attempt to replace the fat-formers in a normal diet with proteins such as those mentioned above in the tables of Hon. W. B. Barney, of Iowa.

Why is honey not compared with other foods of its own class and purpose, such as the various syrups, jams, sugars, starchy foods, &c., whose place in our diet could be replaced (in some instances) with honey, and with resulting benefit to both health and pocket?

To run 600 colonies in out-apiaries successfully is no small job. Reg. Penny is going to tell how it is done. Good bee-keeper is Reg. Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

Perhaps your readers, or some of them, may be interested sufficiently to make an examination of the known facts regarding honey and its place and value in diet. In the first place, all foods may be classed roughly as follows:—

1. Proteins—containing nitrogen essential for flesh-forming. Examples: Lean meat, eggs, cheese, legumes.
2. Fat-forming foods—vegetable and animal fats and carbohydrates.
3. Balanced Foods—combining the qualities of both protein and fat-forming foods, the best known example being milk.

Honey is classed with the group of vegetable products known as carbohydrates, and including, besides honey, such foods as sugar, syrups, jam, starchy foods, and commercial products based on glucose, &c. Carbohydrates, as the name implies, are composed of carbon in varying combinations with the almost inseparable hydrogen and oxygen, the two latter being in the proportion of 2 to 1 as in water. An analytical chemist, however, is far from being able to give us a true estimate of the real value of honey as a food, for we find that glucose, for example, is formed of the same elements as honey, and in the same proportion too; yet there is a vast difference in the food value of honey and its inferior substitutes, such as glucose. (It might here be mentioned, for the reassurance of those who fear adulteration in the honey they buy, that in New Zealand with its high customs duty it is not a profitable undertaking to sell adulterated honey.)

We are left to surmise that the vitalising but elusive vitamin makes all the difference between the natural product and the artificial one, after we have made allowance for those differences between foods which the analyst can gauge. A very interesting article on the "Therapeutic Value of Honey" appeared in the *N.Z. Fruitgrower* for October, 1920, giving the results obtained by Dr. Demade as published in *L'Abeille de l'Aisne*, a very young child in the last stages of acute diarrhoea being nourished with small doses of honey when every other means had failed. The same results were gained by Dr. Demade in two other very different cases:—

1. In that most obstinate of all diarrhoeas which follow an advanced stage of pulmonary consumption.
2. In diarrhoea, to which young animals, such as chickens and turkeys, are subject during their early growth.

In every case he obtained the same results—namely, the stoppage of diarrhoea and the return of the desire for nutrition.

To quote further: In a communication to *La Reforme Alimentaire*, Dr. Demade says "it should be easy for any practitioner with common sense to recognise the reasons for this high value possessed by honey. It is, in the first place, a most

extraordinary natural product. It is sugar, but not of the ordinary kind. It is antiseptic, almost free from fermentation, and withal capable of almost instant assimilation in the organism with next to no exertion on the part of the digestive agents. Ordinary sugar is saccharose, whereas honey is glucose (glucose used as an adjective, apparently.—A.P.Y.) The former ferments readily, and has to be turned into glucose by the action of the saliva or some of the other digestive juices before it can be assimilated. In the case of a healthy stomach, saccharose can be dealt with at no great expense to the system, but when the digestive organs have been weakened by disease and the whole nervous system is extra-sensitive, sugar should be withheld and honey given.

This statement of Dr. Demade makes one wonder how many practitioners with common sense we have in New Zealand, as one never even hears of a doctor who recommends his patient to use honey, even for medicinal purposes, and brings one to the conclusion that doctoring is a rule of thumb trade like any other, generally speaking, and that to depart in any instance from the "trade union" Pharmacopœia would be to commit "trade union" *ariikari*.

Dr. Demade's remarks, making references to saccharose and glucose foods, brings us to a consideration of honey in relation to the other foods in the group to which it belongs—the carbohydrates. Carbohydrates may be divided into the three following sub-groups:—

1. The glucose group (dextrose or grape sugar, levulose or fruit sugar).
2. The cane sugar group (cane sugar, sugar of milk, and maltose).
3. The cellulose group (cellulose, starch).

By analysis, honey is found to consist of about equal parts of grape sugar and fruit sugar, with a varying percentage of water, a trace of free cane sugar, and a trace of mineral matter. It is here worthy of note that in the case of ripe fruits, the sugar content is in the form of grape sugar and fruit sugar (equal parts), and cane sugar is only found in the unripe fruit, the process of ripening apparently effecting this desirable change of cane sugar into the more easily absorbed dextrose and levulose. This is analogous to the process going on in every hive of bees, where a solution of cane sugar (nectar from flowers) is transformed by the bees themselves into a mixture of dextrose and levulose, known to us as honey. On the question of sweetness, dextrose is not so sweet as cane sugar, the ratio of sweetness being as 3 is to 5, but levulose has a sweetness equal to that of cane sugar.

It is lamentable, and not redounding to the credit of our honey-industry, that ignorance of the real value of honey is so widespread in this country of free education, as there are many inexpensive methods of educating the public on this matter, and one very effective way which

at once suggests itself is per medium of our schools. It is to be noticed that not a single text-book on hygiene or kindred subjects, as used in the schools to-day, contains a single reference to the value of honey as a food; and in order to get the food value in calories of honey, I found it necessary to refer to a bulletin on nutrition issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, U.S.A. As for the modern text-book as used in the schools, both primary and secondary, apparently honey is not considered modern enough for even a mention. So we progress, and to cap it all, our N.Z. Honey Producers' Association solemnly issue a booklet telling us, on the authority of W. B. Barney, that 7 oz. of honey are equal in food value (which variety of food value not mentioned) to 15 oz. of codfish. All standard tables of food analysis make comparisons of the calorific or fuel value of foods by giving a table showing the values worked out for one shilling's worth of each variety of food considered, but this booklet in question does not seem to hold with this simple method.

From standard tables in the *Encyclopædit Brit.*, a generally acknowledged source of authority, I understand, it would appear that at the present market rates one shilling's worth of the articles of food mentioned in the booklet have the accompanying fuel values in calories (which is the standard unit of heat measurement):

- 1/- worth of round beef at 1/- per lb. has a fuel value of 890 calories.
- 1/- worth of eggs at 2/- per doz. has a fuel value of 212 calories.
- 1/- worth of codfish at 1/- per lb. has a fuel value of 220 calories.
- 1/- worth of bananas at 4d. per lb. has a fuel value of 780 calories.
- 1/- worth of oranges at 4/- per doz. has a fuel value of 190 calories (approx.).
- 1/- worth of honey at 1/- per lb. has a fuel value of 1,420 calories.

But this table is of no more use than the other one from the booklet for the purpose of comparing honey with other foods, as with the exception of bananas none of these foods belong to the fat-producing (heat and energy) class. Whether this table is accurate or not, we do not eat oranges for the production of either flesh or fat, and their inclusion in the tables under discussion forcibly reminds one of the ancient and very inane riddle: "Why is an elephant like a wheelbarrow?" the answer, which I have also to inflict on you, being, "Because neither can climb a tree."

Since commencing this, I have noticed that in the February number of the N.Z. National Review there is an article by W. J. Jordan, styled as "late N.Z.E.F., and instructor in beekeeping to N.Z. Forces in France." In his article, Mr. Jordan quotes T. G. Newman, in his "Honey as Food and Medicine," and in

the midst of statements no one would attempt to deny, Newman says:—... "it (honey) does not add so much to the growth of muscles as does beefsteak, but it does impart other properties... to the labourer it (honey) gives strength... its effects are not like ordinary stimulants, such as spirits..." &c. These statements are very loose and vague, and seem to indicate that Newman's knowledge of the subject, if it was definite and accurate, did not stand very well being conveyed to paper.

It would be interesting to see how long the labourer's strength would hold out, when produced by honey or any other food of its particular class; energy generated by honey, however, would be most efficient when driving muscles built and renewed by the absolutely essential protein food, whether it be beef or beans. And to speak of stimulants as Newman does—is it not accepted that when a stimulant (whether spirits or not) begins its work of stimulation, it is by some obscure process drawing on to-morrow's store of energy, and so mortgaging what really belongs to to-morrow, to the extent of the stimulation effected, which is really the same as drawing out of the bank more than you have put in—very nice and convenient at times, but not recommended as a regular thing. Why speak of honey as if it were "not like ordinary stimulants, such as spirits," but by inference some sort of extraordinary stimulant, one might imagine, instead of being what it is, a producer or generator of quickly available energy?

I have yet to find the text-book that does not evade the problem of how our little friends who turn out this really wonderful honey manage to carry on without anything beyond the pure honey diet they hint at—the protein pollen food, according to the text-book authorities I have come across so far, being used by the all-wise little creatures for the feeding of the larve, in spite of the fact that every second of bee flight is wearing away tissue as surely as that every spadeful we dig wears ours away in the garden. But I suppose we will have to believe the text-books, or else be branded as a heretic. You can take your choice.

A. P. YOUNG.

87 Cambridge terrace, Christchurch.

You have heard the term, "a concrete case," haven't you? C. F. Horn is going to give you one by the paper, "The Uses of Concrete in the Apiary." "Solid" subject. Good speaker, Horn! Auckland, 8th, 9th and 10th.

You all know Jas. Allan—one of the pillars of the industry. He is going to speak on "The Future of the Honey Industry." This affects you considerably; better hear him. Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

Correspondence.

[The publication of any letter does not necessarily imply our agreement with the subject matter, and we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I am sending you a photograph of our apiary. You will notice that the hives are placed among fruit trees. I am aware that experts say this should not be, but my experience, extending over 30 years, has proved that it does not interfere with the working of the bees, as they do not need quite so much room for landing or flying off as an airplane. If there is 6ft. clear from the entrance, either frontal or either side, with a fair-sized landing platform, all is well. I think these are real advantages.

All the hives are in the shade some part of the day, and on a hot day the bees have let us know how they appreciate the shade; but perhaps the greatest advantage is in the winter months. The shade keeps them quieter, and except for cleansing flights the quieter the better for, say, three months. And it is certainly a relief if on a very hot day the person working the hives can sometimes be in the shade, still not going slow.

I notice Mr. Ward speaks of several people reporting cross bees this season. Our experience has been just the reverse. Is it not possible to account for the so-called crossness. We have had very little settled weather this season, and after a few days of bad winds or rain and cold, it does not pay to be in too great a hurry to get among the hives when the sun shines again. The first fortnight in January was the best time we have had this season: a steady flow of nectar, and queens laying at a great rate; and then for several days wet and cold—nothing doing. Now, just think what has been taking place in the hives: thousands of young bees that could not get a flight. Well, our experience leads to this conclusion: if on the first fine day, before the young bees have had a chance to get out and the older ones have not settled down to work, you may expect what is termed "cross" bees. I wonder what kind of mood the average man would be in under similar conditions. My advice is: Let the bees get settled to steady work again, and you will find them all right.—I am, &c.,

T. J. BURNET.

Woodenā, Canterbury, March 11.

Ever heard Bartlett-Miller? Great speaker! He is going to offer some criticisms of the National and helpful suggestions. Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

You remember Banks, of Whakarewareware? He's rather good on the benefits of large hives. Fine speaker, too! Auckland, June 8th, 9th and 10th. Don't miss it!

Answers to Correspondents.

W. D. Stout, c/o J. Kempton, Morrisons Bush.—Seeing that you went to the trouble of altering the address on the crop report card so that it read in rather an insulting manner, it is a pity you did not go a little further and fulfil the obligations of common honesty by affixing the necessary postage stamp. Perhaps this is your sense of humour; if so, we suggest that when you next hear of a phrenologist being in your district, follow the matter up!

Subscriptions Received.

[NOTE.—Should there be found any discrepancy, please write the Editor.]

J. P. Blee, Ashton, to Feb. 22.
G. W. Sage, Ohaupo, to Dec. 23.
H. T. Arrow, Waipawa, to March 22.
O.F.C.A. Ltd., Timara, to Dec. 21.
R. Whytock, Milton, to March 22.
G. A. King, Balclutha, to March 22.
W. A. Nehoff, Tuaepeka Mouth, to March 22.
T. H. Evans, Manurewa, to Feb. 22.
F. W. Cox, Bunnythorpe, to Feb. 22.
T. G. Malcolm, Morton Mains, to Feb. 22.
F. J. Severin, California, to Feb. 22.
H. M. de Joux, Winton, to March 22.
C. W. Kendon, Tabuna, to March 22.
R. Waterworth, Marton, to March 22.
T. R. Surrey, Huirangi, to Feb. 22.
C. F. Newhook, Auckland, to March 22.
R. Whiting, Waitoa, to April 22.
— Paul, Ruakura, to Feb. 22.
W. J. Osborne, West Oxford, to March 22.
P. Martin, Umukuri, to Feb. 22.
W. Smith, Featherston, to March 22.
R. Cole, New Plymouth, to Feb. 22.
A. Headland, Palmerston N., to Dec. 21.
N. C. Davidson, Te Horo, to March 22.
G. T. Francis, Tokaora, to Feb. 22.
F. A. Wright, Henderson, to March 22.
D. M. Ewart, Paretai, to March 22.
Miss Crawford, Waikoikoi, to March 22.
W. D. Sinclair, Oamaru, to April 22.
J. H. Appleby, Palmerston S., to April 22.
G. L. Hight, Christchurch, to March 22.
D. Campbell, Wainuku, to April 22.
John Cooper, Menzies Bay (donation 14/-), to June 22.
A. W. R. Quinnell, Kihikihi, to March 22.
G. R. Willis, Pukekohe, to Feb. 22.
J. M. Petersen, Queensland, to March 22.
Major Shallard, N.S.W., to March 22.
Jas. Wilson, N.S.W., to March 22.
A. Davies, Ngongotaha, to March 22.
G. Cunliffe, Tauranga, to March 22.
J. R. Smith, Auckland, to March 22.
Mrs. L. Adamson, Makikihi, to March 22.
J. S. Cook, Rangiora, to Feb. 22.
John Young, Southbridge, to March 22.
E. H. Barr, Stoke, to Jan. 22.
D. Henderson, Westport, to April 22.
C. Robertson, Stewart Island, to Feb. 22.
W. H. McDonald, Tauherenikanu, to Mar. 22.
J. Rhodes, Tauherenikanu, to March 22.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion. Cash must accompany orders or will not be inserted. Addresses care Editor 6d. extra to cover cost of postage of replies.]

BEEWAX WANTED in quantity for the Manufacture of "Acorn" Comb Foundation.

I am paying the Highest Cash Price for good clean Wax.

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Two of the chief planks in the platform of the above Club are—the stimulation and conduction of research work in Bee Culture and the creation of International scholarly relations amongst progressive apiarists in all countries.

Membership fee, 10/6 per annum, which includes one year's subscription to the "Bee World," a paper that has by sheer merit come right up to the front rank of Bee literature. ENROL NOW!

Dr. A. Z. ABUSHADY,
Secretary.

COMMERCIAL APIARISTS willing to assist Returned Soldiers who have had a Course of Instruction in the industry are requested to communicate with

CHAPLAIN CAPT. HARDIE,

Trentbam Camp.

NOTICE TO BEEKEEPERS.

I AM ESTABLISHING an Out-Apiary on Mr. A. McCheyne Murray's Property, "Rotherwood," on the Koromatus-Tuhi-karamaea road.

E. A. WALSH,
Hamilton.

WANTED (by an energetic young man anxious to learn beekeeping), POSITION next season. Reply

c/o P. MARTIN,
Umukuri, Nelson.

We all make mistakes! Brickell will talk on "How Not to Do It by One Who Did." Here's experience without paying for it. "Brick." has done a lot for the industry.—Auckland, June 8th, 9th & 10th.

Job Lines

WE HAVE JUST FINISHED STOCK-TAKING, AND FIND A FEW LINES OVERSTOCKED. THESE WE OFFER AT VERY MUCH REDUCED PRICES TO CLEAR.

THE "HAND BOTTOM BOARD."—After exhaustive inquiries, the Department of Agriculture report:—"Swarming is prevented by this device by a simple definite process. Thirty years' experience in bees has provided no other method of swarm control so nearly effective or easy. If, in spite of everything, as will sometimes happen, any colony shows preparation for swarming, they can be frustrated by switching the flying bees over to the other side. Any system whereby the progeny of two queens laying for six weeks prior to the honey flow can be made to work in conjunction throughout the flow with only one brood-nest; should appeal to any beekeeper." 76 of these Appliances.

Usual Price, 12/6. To clear—8/6 each.

2,500 Specially Made H.P.A. SIMPLICITY FRAMES.

Usual Price, 23/- To Clear—19/- 100.

400 PAT HONEY BOXES. New Design, with projecting ends.

Usual Price, 3/8. To Clear—3/2 each.

2 Each No. 25 and No. 27 EXTRACTORS, Root Automatic; 4-frame; friction driven, ball-bearing Machines; No. 25 with 9% pockets; No. 27 with 11% pockets. These Machines are of the very latest design, and are superior to any other Machines made in any part of the world.

No. 25—Usual Price, £36. To Clear—£29 10s.

No. 27—Usual Price, £47. To Clear—£32.

Anyone likely to require a Honey Extractor next season cannot afford to miss these Machines.

Beekeepers' Supplies

There are no Supplies offered which can compare with "Alliance" Goods in quality. The Price of them, whilst a little higher than some other makes, is more than compensated for by the Superior Quality of the materials used, and the greater care taken in their manufacture. In fact, our goods are the cheapest in the world.

Airco New Process Comb Foundation.

Surpassed by no other makes;
New Refining Process;
New Milling Process;
No Imperfect or Blemished Cells.

This New Foundation is made of clearer, cleaner Wax, possessing the true waxy aroma, and is made on mills which are without a spot or blemish. As every cell is perfect, no drone comb will be built, thereby effecting a considerable profit to users of Airco Foundation. Nicely packed samples sent free on request. Secure one for comparison.

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R. W. BRICKELL, *Manager.*

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To Beekeepers.

This year will test the value of co-operative marketing.

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BENTON'S QUEEN-CELL NURSERY- INCUBATOR (Patent No. 43259.)

THE MOST MODERN IMPROVEMENT IN QUEEN-CELL NURSERIES.

Its advantages are such as to lessen the Cost of Producing Virgin Queens by fully one-third. It saves time, labour, and trouble, and many of the risks incurred in handling Cells; hence you cannot afford to be without one.

Do not forget, it is often poor economy to continue using out-of-date and inferior Appliances, when up-to-date and efficient Appliances are procurable.

THE BENTON QUEEN-CELL AND QUEEN NURSERY can be had in two sizes. The small size provides for the care of 16 Cells, and holds 6 half-depth Frames. The large size provides for the care of 48 Cells.

Send for descriptive leaflet and price of this proved success to the

SOLE AGENTS:

N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn., Ltd.

BOX 1293, AUCKLAND.

1920-21 PRICES OF ITALIAN QUEENS.

One or Two:
7/6 each.

Three or Four:
7/- each.

Five or more than Five.
6/6 each.

All orders accepted last season and during the winter months at last season's prices will be filled as agreed.

Colour Range of Workers Guaranteed Leather Three-banded to Golden Four banded.

TERMS.—Nett cash with order; Cheques to have exchange added.

Any Queen arriving dead at original address replaced Free if Cage is returned unopened.

NOTES.—Owing to the increase in the price of sugar, postage, and all materials, No Reduction can be made on large orders.

All orders filled in strict rotation. Beekeepers should order early and avoid disappointment. In the best interests of Customers no Queens will be sent out later than the second week in March. This will enable Queens to be raised for wintering in the Nuclei, thus ensuring early Queens the following Spring.

Customers can rely on getting the best of Queens, and are assured of Absolute Freedom from Disease.

Inspection of the Apiary cordially welcomed at all times.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

J. H. TODD, Renwicktown, MARLBOROUGH.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Dept. of Agriculture, Industries & Commerce,
Blenheim, Sept. 15th, 1920.

Mr. J. H. Todd, Renwicktown.

Sir,—Having examined every hive at your Apiary at Renwicktown, I have found no evidence of Foul-brood.

(Signed) A. P. YOUNG,
Apiary Inspector.